copy to: A. Weiberg

Dear Mr. Verb,

22 October 1997
02 January 1998

I heard your interview on KSFO and then heard you speak that evening at Fort Mason. I found you to be a very interesting person. While waiting for the program to start I looked over with great interest your paper on Oswald being an intelligence agent for the ONI.

I have to part company with you on this. I have experience with the ONI, I held a clearance for 8 years, Top Secret-Crypto, I fired Expert on the known distance range, and I had friends who worked in the CID. I never believed Oswald fired more than twice and I think he was a "pigeon."

Firstly, the ONI is in the Department of the Navy and does do some intelligence work. Almost all this work is done through the Naval Attaches in embassies and consulates. Cloak and dagger stuff is not their forte. The main thrust of the ONI is background checks for persons connected with the navy and for the years surrounding the Oswald case, illegal drug investigations and large scale theft cases. They have the authority to work away from naval installations. In fact, their offices are usually in Federal buildings. The CID is the local police department dealing in criminal cases on military installations and they have the power to arrest on the base. For any arrest off the base they go to the ONI and in some instances, the FBI is called in.

Depending on what offense was committed, Oswald would not be "automatically" noticed by the ONI. Stealing Top Secret navy material would get him to the ONI, stealing a typewriter would put him into the CID. Burglarizing a home on base would be a CID area, bringing drugs off a ship would send him to ONI. Not that I would know for sure, but there was never any hint of the ONI running operatives inside the Soviet Union. ONI was not in anyway set up to run agents anywhere. They were very hard pressed to do undercover work in San Francisco. A few of their agents were uncovered as they spied on war protesters in the streets of S.F.

It should also be noted that the CIA is charged sole, by law, to operate agents overseas, and when the FBI runs its agents overseas, there is a mighty clash of titans. Imagine if the ONI were caught running overseas agents ? ONI is not equipped to run agents, even, across the street.

The CID is even less able to run an agent or more in the Soviet Union. They have no and I do mean NO experience in running agents. When you consider the intricacies of detail in running agents in foreign lands, successfully, you have to realize, they had no authority, they had no experience, and they had no trade craft. The next question has to be, if in fact, either one of these agencies did run Oswald in the Soviet Union, to what purpose? Drugs, typewriters, pornography, sables? What was the purpose? Why would either agency want to run an agent?

Secondly, you infer that the caller to the radio show you were on, in years past, intimated that Oswald worked with IFF codes and worked "black box" assignments. Several questions arise here. Your exposition of "facts" is quite sketchy. Again, the questions, what authority generates IFF codes? My guess is the NSA, Fort Meade Maryland. They have jurisdiction over all codes used in the government and military and the know how and technology

to do the work. I am sure they do not allow the Marine Corps to use Flash Gordons secret ring with the special code compartment to be their cryptographic charlatan of choice. What "black box" assignments are generated out of El Toro Marine Base? "180 individuals in the unit and only five were classified" ? 180 people is a fairly large unit and all doing what? Only 5 were classified? Makes no sense. I worked in a company of 350 men and 300 of them held the T/S Crypto clearance. The rest were security, cooks, maintenance, and administrative people. 175 people do not support 5 people, so what did the 175 do? What was "classified"? There are several classifications in the secret world. How do we know Oswald held a T/S Crypto clearance? What was his Military Occupational Specialty? The marines call it something else, but it bespeaks what his training was and that indicates his job.

You mentioned in your talk that Oswald, while in Japan, worked in a unit that monitored the overflights of B-52s carrying nuclear weapons. I have contacts in Strategic Air Command and they stated, to a man, it was highly unlikely, if not downright false, that Oswald, a marine pfc, knew where the B-52s were at any given time. The question of what Oswalds military job was in Japan must be answered fully. Anyone in SAC can tell you that SAC was super secret in its operations. Not even those in SAC knew what missions were being flown, when, where, and what the weapons load was and especially so the nukes. These were the "Strangelove" days.

My impression was that the combined opinion of Oswald was not high. First, he was a sharpshooter, next he was only a "c or c+" shooter. Some said he was a marksman. Is that below or above a sharpshooter.? Could he have gotten three accurate shots into the target? Not with that rifle. Or maybe he did as he was the lone gunman. Or was he? Another question. I fired 248 bulls eyes out of 250 possible bulls in the military and qualified for the Expert badge. At this late date I cannot tell what the cut off points were except that it is important to know how many bulls he scored out of 250 possibles. This is a very accurate description of his ability to hit a target. It could very well be that his trips to the CID were in reality, trips to the firing range. They may have had a basement target range or they may have taken him to an outdoor range. But why would they have sent him to Russia? More target practice?

The paper I am looking at and your spoken inferences Monday night last, are not very good sources to dispute. I am sure you have answers to these questions. But what disturbs me is the statement, " *Oswald was a US Intelligence agent or the three main reasons ... the evidence is sufficient, compelling and substantive: .* " Nothing could be further from the truth. You have striven mightily and uncovered a mountain of material, but there is no presentation of connectable fact which leads to the conclusion that Oswald was, indeed, a US intelligence agent.

In the capacity of my work, I took statements, I did background checks, I interviewed people to make sure other people were telling the truth. I tried my best to get the truth and record it. When I read the FBI statements in the Kennedy Investigation, I was amazed that they left so many questions unanswered, so many questions were not asked, replies were hazy with no attempt to clarify, so many of the statements were totally worthless. I gave up on the Kennedy Assassination Conspiracy. Over the years I would read the various offerings of fact and shook my head in wonder that they could even sell the book. Their facts were so sketchy. I went to your presentation and came away with the horrendous conclusion that was offered: there was a